

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a system that includes a recording apparatus, a method for controlling the recording apparatus in response to programs that have been selected for recording and that have coinciding broadcast times, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving user input from a particular user selecting a first program for recording, the first program having a first broadcast time;

thereafter, receiving user input from the particular user selecting a second program for recording, the second program having a second broadcast time that at least partially coincides with the first broadcast time;

determining that, at the time the user input selecting the second program for recording is received, a conflict exists between the first program and the second program;

at the time the user input selecting the second program for recording is received, and immediately thereafter, abstaining from resolving the conflict;

storing, at the system, a recording list specifying programs specified by the particular user for recording, the recording list including recording information for both the first program and the second program to be recorded, despite the existence of the conflict at the time the user input selecting the second program is received, and immediately thereafter;

the system automatically selecting the first program for recording;

using the recording list to program the recording apparatus to schedule recording of the first program at the first broadcast time;

subsequent to programming the recording apparatus to record the first program at the first broadcast time, continuing to store, at the system, the recording list specifying that the user has selected the second program to be recorded at the second broadcast time which is at least partially coinciding with the first broadcast time, without requiring a user to resolve the conflict, wherein the continued storage preserves the possibility of automatically scheduling the recording of the second program; and

in response to a subsequent event, wherein the subsequent event comprises at least one of detecting that a new tuner has been added to the recording apparatus or detecting that at least one of a start or stop time for ~~at least one of the first program or second program~~ has changed from the first broadcast time ~~or second broadcast time respectively~~, automatically programming the recording apparatus to schedule recording of the second program at the second broadcast time, ~~subsequent to programming the apparatus to schedule recording of the first program~~ and using the stored recording information specifying that the user has selected the second program to be recorded, and without requiring the user to reselect the second program to be recorded.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the act of communicating to the user information specifying that the conflict exists and that the second program is to be recorded only if the conflict is resolved prior to the second broadcast time.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Presently Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the subsequent event comprises the first program being preempted such that the first program is not broadcast at the first broadcast time.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the subsequent event comprises at least one of a start time and an end time of at least one of the first program and the second program changing from that which was scheduled, such that no portion of the first program coincides with any portion of the second program.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the subsequent event comprises the act of analyzing broadcast data broadcast on a channel that includes one of the first program and the second program, the broadcast data identifying said at least one of the start time and the end time of said at least one of the first program and the second program.

9-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) In a system that includes a recording apparatus, a method for resolving conflicts between programs that have been selected for recording and have coinciding broadcast times, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving, from a particular user, input selecting a first program for recording, the first program having a first broadcast time;

receiving, from the particular user, input selecting a second program for recording, the second program having an expected second broadcast time having an expected start time and an expected end time, wherein the expected broadcast time at least partially coincides with the first broadcast time, thereby creating a conflict between the first program and the second program;

at the time the user input selecting the second program for recording is received, and immediately thereafter, abstaining from resolving the conflict between the first program and the second program;

storing, at the system, a recording list specifying programs to be recorded, the recording list being usable to program the recording apparatus to record listed programs, the recording list further including recording information indicative that input has been received from the particular user selecting both the first program to be recorded at the first broadcast time and the second program to be recorded at the expected second broadcast time, despite the existence of the conflict existing at the time the user input selecting the second program is received, and immediately thereafter, the conflict existing inasmuch as the expected second broadcast time at least partially coincides with the first broadcast time, and wherein the recording list visually distinguishes between programs which are:

selected for recording, involved in a conflict with another program selected for recording, and scheduled for recording;

selected for recording, involved in a conflict with another program selected for recording, and not scheduled for recording; and

selected for recording and not involved in a conflict with another program selected for recording;

continuing to store, at the system, the recording list specifying that input has been received selecting both the first program and the second program to be recorded at the first broadcast time and the expected second broadcast time, respectively, and while the first

broadcast time and the expected second broadcast time conflicted at the time the user input selecting the second program was received, and immediately thereafter;

monitoring broadcast data on a channel on which the second program is to be broadcast to determine that at least one of an actual start time and an actual end time differs from the respective expected start time and expected end time; and

upon determining that at least one of an actual start time ~~and an or an~~ actual end time of an actual second broadcast time differs from the respective expected start time and expected end time, determining whether both the first program and the second program can be recorded as a result of the actual broadcast time and the first broadcast time not coinciding and using the stored recording information of the recording list specifying that input has been received selecting both the first program and the second program to be recorded, and, if so, recording both the first program and the second program using the recording apparatus.

23. (Original) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the first broadcast time does not coincide with the expected second broadcast time and the first broadcast time at least partially coincides with an actual second broadcast time defined by the actual start time and the actual end time, such that:

the act of determining whether both the first program and the second program can be recorded results in a determination that one of the first program and the second program cannot be recorded.

24. (Original) A method as recited in claim 23, further comprising the act of recording all of the second program during the actual second broadcast time as opposed to recording only that portion of the second program that is broadcast during the expected second broadcast time.

25. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the first broadcast time at least partially coincides with the expected second broadcast time and the first broadcast time does not coincide with an actual second broadcast time defined by the actual start time and the actual end time, such that:

the conflict between the first broadcast time and the expected second broadcast time is resolved and both the first program and the second program are recorded.

26-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) A method as recited in claim 4, further comprising the acts of:
receiving user input selecting a third program for recording at a third broadcast time;
and
prior to the act of programming the recording apparatus to record the second program
and in response to the subsequent event reconsidering which of the selected programs
including the second program and the third program, are to be recorded, using a priority list
that lists the programs in an original order in which the selected programs were selected.

33. (Original) A method as recited in claim 4, further comprising the acts of:
receiving user input selecting a third program for recording at a third broadcast time;
and
prior to the act of programming the recording apparatus to record the second program
and in response to the subsequent event, reconsidering which of the selected programs,
including the second program and the third program, are to be recorded, using a priority list
that lists the selected programs first by whether the recording apparatus was originally
programmed to record the selected programs and second in an original order in which the
selected programs were selected.

34. (New) In a system that includes a recording apparatus, a method for controlling the recording apparatus in response to programs that have been selected for recording and that have coinciding broadcast times, the method comprising the acts of:

- at an electronic program guide (EPG) receiving user input from a particular user selecting a first program for recording, the first program being repeated at a first regular frequency, and an instance of the first program having a first broadcast time;

- thereafter, receiving user input at the EPG, and from the particular user, selecting a second program for recording, the second program being repeated at a second regular frequency, and an instance of the second program having a second broadcast time that at least partially coincides with the first broadcast time;

- determining that, at the time the user input selecting the second program for recording is received, a conflict exists between the instance of first program and the instance of the second program;

- at the time the user input selecting the second program for recording is received, and immediately thereafter, abstaining from resolving the conflict;

- storing, at the system, a priority list specifying multiple programs selected by the particular user for recording, the priority list including recording information for both the first program and the second program to be recorded, despite the existence of the conflict at the time the user input selecting the second program is received, and immediately thereafter, wherein the priority list includes different visual identifiers for each of:

 - programs selected for recording, involved in a conflict with another program selected for recording, and scheduled for recording;

 - programs selected for recording, involved in a conflict with another program selected for recording, and not scheduled for recording; and

 - programs selected for recording and not involved in a conflict with another program selected for recording;

- the system automatically selecting the instance of the first program for recording and using the priority list to program the recording apparatus to schedule recording of the instance of the first program at the first broadcast time, wherein automatically selecting the instance of the first program and programming the recording apparatus includes applying a default rule set including at least the following rules for a single tuner:

 - program a most senior, non-optional program for recording;

program a junior program for recording when it does not conflict with senior programs;

program a junior program for recording when it only conflicts with one or more senior, optional programs;

program an optional program for recording when it does not conflict with any other program;

program an optional program for recording when it only conflicts with one or more junior, optional programs;

not program a junior program for recording that conflicts with one or more senior programs which have been programmed for recording; and

program a junior program for recording that conflicts with one or more senior programs when all of the conflicting senior programs are not programmed for recording;

updating the EPG to reflect which programs and instance of programs are scheduled for recording, wherein the EPG includes different visual identifiers for each of:

repeated programs selected for recording and scheduled for recording;

non-repeated programs selected for recording and scheduled for recording;

programs selected for recording and not scheduled for recording;

programs selected for optional recording; and

programs not selected for recording;

subsequent to programming the recording apparatus to record the instance of the first program at the first broadcast time, continuing to store, at the system, the priority list specifying that the user has selected the second program to have its instance recorded at the second broadcast time which is at least partially coinciding with the first broadcast time, without requiring a user to resolve the conflict, wherein the continued storage preserves the possibility of automatically scheduling the recording of the instance of the second program; and

after programming the recording apparatus to record the instance of the first program, detecting that a new tuner has been added to the recording apparatus, and thereafter automatically programming the recording apparatus to schedule recording of the second program using the stored recording information specifying that the user has selected the second program to be recorded without requiring the user to reselect the second program to be recorded, such that instance of the first program is recorded at the first broadcast time and the instance of the second instance is recorded at the second broadcast time.